

BEST AVAILABLE COPY**AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) An inner duct having a central passage operable for routing a transmission cable therein, said inner duct comprising:

a duct tube, said duct tube being monolithic and having an inner surface and an outer surface defining a duct tube wall therebetween, said inner surface defining the central passage, the central passage being sized for installing and removing the transmission cable, wherein an average outer diameter of the duct tube is about 38 millimeters (1.5 inches) or less so that the inner duct is suitable for routing a plurality of inner ducts within a larger duct;

at least one passageway, said passageway disposed generally between said inner surface of said duct tube and said outer surface of said duct tube so that the at least one passageway is disposed within the duct tube wall, wherein said passageway is operable for receiving at least one optical fiber.

2. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 1, said duct further comprising at least one strength member disposed between said inner surface of said duct tube and said outer surface of said duct tube.

3. (original) The inner duct according to claim 1, said passageway of said inner duct having at least one optical fiber disposed therein.

4. (original) The inner duct according to claim 1, said inner duct further comprising at least one tube stranded around said duct tube.

5. (original) The inner duct according to claim 4, said at

least one tube having an outer sheath therearound.

6. (original) The inner duct according to claim 5, said duct tube being generally concentric with said outer sheath.

7. (currently amended) The inner duct according to claim 1, said inner duct further comprising a transmission cable within the central passage therein.

8. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 1, said duct tube further comprising ribs.

9. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 1, said duct tube further comprising at least two layers.

10. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 9, said at least one of said layers of having a lubricant.

11. (original) The inner duct according to claim 1, said inner duct having a fiber optic density greater than zero when a central passage of said duct tube is empty.

12. (currently amended) An inner duct having a central passage operable for routing a transmission cable therein and removing the transmission cable therefrom, said inner duct comprising:

a duct tube, said duct tube being monolithic and having an inner surface and an outer surface defining a duct tube wall therebetween, wherein the central passage has a cross-sectional area that comprises the majority of a total cross-sectional area of the inner duct;

at least one tube, said at least one tube being stranded around said duct tube; and

at least optical fiber, said optical fiber being disposed in the at least one tube.

13. (original) The inner duct according to claim 12, said inner duct further comprising an outer sheath generally surrounding said at least one tube.

14. (original) The inner duct according to claim 13, said duct tube being generally concentric with said outer sheath.

15. (original) The inner duct according to claim 12, said inner duct further comprising at least one passageway, said at least one passageway being disposed generally between said inner surface of said duct tube and said outer surface of said duct tube, wherein said passageway is operable for receiving at least one optical fiber.

16. (original) The inner duct according to claim 15, said at least one passageway having at least one optical fiber disposed therein.

17. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 12, said inner duct further comprising at least one strength member disposed between said inner surface of said duct tube and said outer surface of said duct tube.

18. (currently amended) The inner duct according to claim 12, said inner duct further comprising an optical fiber cable disposed within the central passage therein.

19. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 12, said duct tube further comprising ribs.

20. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 12, said outer sheath further comprising ribs.

21. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 12, said duct tube further comprising at least two layers.

22. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 21, said at least one of said layers of having a lubricant.

23. (original) The inner duct according to claim 12, said inner duct having a fiber optic density greater than zero when a central passage of said duct tube is empty.

24. (currently amended) An inner duct having a central passage operable for routing a transmission cable therein, said inner duct comprising:

a duct tube, said duct tube being monolithic and having an inner surface and an outer surface defining a duct tube wall therebetween, said inner surface defining the central passage, the central passage being sized for installing and removing the transmission cable;

at least one passageway, said passageway disposed generally within said duct tube wall between said inner and outer surfaces of said duct tube, wherein said passageway is operable for receiving at least one optical fiber;

at least one tube, wherein said at least one tube is stranded around said duct tube;

at least one optical fiber, said at least one optical fiber being disposed in said at least one tube; and

an outer sheath, said outer sheath generally surrounding said at least one tube.

25. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 24, said

duct tube further comprising ribs.

26. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 24, said duct tube further comprising at least two layers.

27. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 24, said at least one of said layers of having a lubricant.

28. (original) The inner duct according to claim 24, said inner duct having a fiber optic density greater than zero when a central passage of said duct tube is empty.

29. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 24, said outer sheath further comprising ribs.

30. (withdrawn) The inner duct according to claim 21, said outer sheath having a lubricant.

31. (new) The inner duct according to claim 1, the inner surface being generally round thereby forming an average inner diameter of about 32 millimeters (1.25 inches).

32. (new) The inner duct according to claim 1, the at least one passageway having a cross-sectional area of about 10 square millimeters.

33. (new) The inner duct according to claim 1, the central passage having a cross-sectional area that comprises the majority of a total cross-sectional area of said inner duct.

34. (new) The inner duct according to claim 4, the at least one tube being in contact with said inner duct.

35. (new) The inner duct according to claim 12, a ratio of the cross-sectional area of the central passage to the total cross-sectional area of said inner duct being about 0.7.